

Greenhouse and Statehouse: The Evolving State Government Role in Climate Change

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Trends in state policy development

- Proliferation of state policies
- Diversification into numerous policy areas
- Explicit vs. incidental GHG reduction
- Extension of existing state authority
- Building on experience from earlier federal policies
- State vulnerability to climate change
- States as GHG sources

+ Multiple drivers, multiple benefits

- + • Renewable energy
 - Energy independence + supply reliability
- + • Air pollution
 - Control conventional pollutants
- + • Agriculture
 - Soil conservation + income from GHG credits
- + • Forestry
 - Energy conservation + wildlife preservation
- + • Transportation
 - Congestion mitigation

Common design features

- Links to economic development strategies
 - Development of new markets and technologies
 - Regulatory predictability
 - Opportunity to credit early reductions
- Policy entrepreneurship
- Bipartisan support

Case Studies

Policy Sector	State	Gov/H/S	Others
Renewable Energy	TX	R/R/R	15 others
Air Pollution	MA	R/D/D	NH
Agriculture	NE	D/NP	IL, OK, ND,
Forestry	MN	R/R/D	MT, OR
Waste Management	NC	D/D/D	WI
Transportation	GA	D/D/D	CA, WA
Energy	OR	D/R/R	MN
Reporting/Registry	WI	R/R/D	CA
Comprehensive	NJ	R/R/R	NY, New Engl.

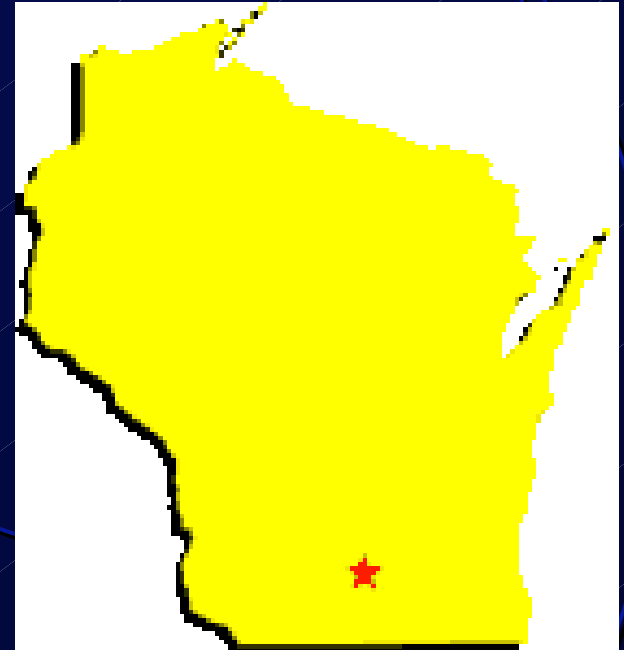
Case Study: Texas

- RPS signed in 1999 by then-Governor George W. Bush
- GHG reduction incidental, but substantial
- **Process:** Deliberative opinion poll
- **Outcome:** “Texas Wind Rush”
- **Proliferation:** 16 states have renewable portfolio standards/goals



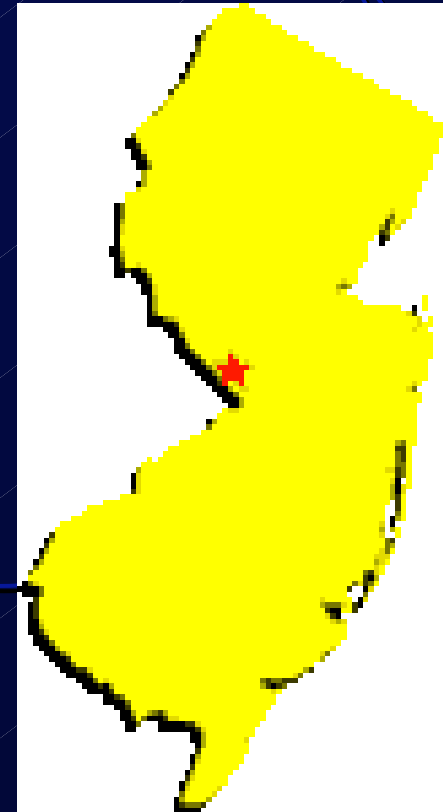
Case Study: Wisconsin

- Mandatory carbon dioxide reporting
- Regulation approved in 1993 by then-Governor Tommy Thompson
- **Process:** Incremental adjustment of emissions reporting
- **Outcome:** Substantial participation, including volunteers
- **Proliferation:** Other states developing varied forms of disclosure (e.g., NJ)



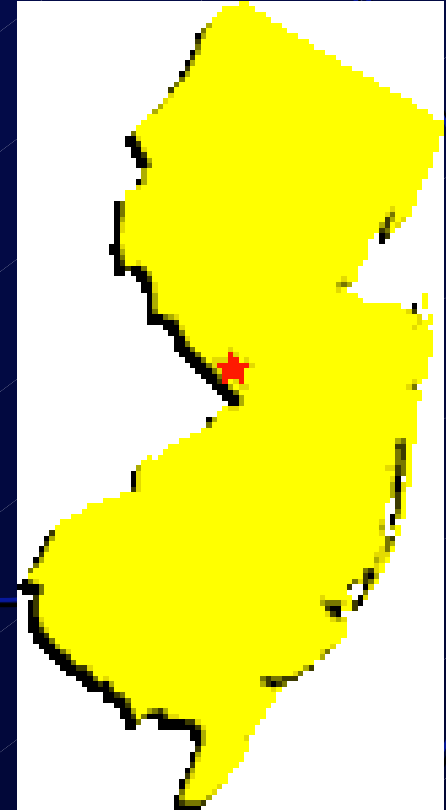
Case Study: New Jersey

- 1998 Administrative Order supported by then-Governor Christine Todd Whitman
- Pledge to reduce GHG emissions 3.5 percent below 1990 levels by 2005
- **Process:** Comprehensive review of NJ GHG sources



Case Study: New Jersey

- **Outcome:** Active engagement of every sector
 - Industry covenants
 - RPS and Societal Benefit Charge
 - Landfill methane recapture
 - Broad participation: Universities, congregations, etc.
- **Proliferation:** New York and New England



Looking Ahead: Limitations

- Lagging states
- Severe state fiscal crises
- Turnover of supportive elected officials
- Regulatory fragmentation: A “patchwork quilt”

Looking Ahead: Possibilities

- Continued proliferation and diversification of policies
- Real GHG reductions as programs mature
- Collaboration between states and within regions: Diffusion and partnerships
- Models for future federal action